

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 ACDA-07 USIE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SSO-00 NSCE-00

INRE-00 A-01 OPR-02 DHA-02 MCT-01 TRSE-00 SY-05

/103 W

-----161255Z 110301 /40

O P 161155Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3048

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 3568

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MOPS, CG, FR, BE

SUBJ: SHABA INVASION: CONSULTATIONS WITH BELGIANS AND FRENCH

1. DURING MEETING APRIL 15 WITH BELGIAN AND FRENCH

AMBASSADORS, THE FOLLOWING POINTS OF INTEREST EMERGED:

2. BOTH BELIEVED THAT MILITARY SITUATION IN SHABA HAD BEEN GREATLY IMPROVED BY ARRIVAL OF MOROCCAN FORCES. SPECIFICALLY, KOLWEZI-- WHICH THEY BELIEVED WOULD HAVE FALLEN IN A MATTER OF DAYS -- COULD NOW BE CONSIDERED REASONABLY SECURE. ON THE OTHER HAND, BOTH HAD SOME CONCERNS ABOUT LONGER-TERM MILITARY PROSPECTS. WHEREAS BEFORE THEY HAD BEEN INCLINED TO BELIEVE THAT KATANGANS WOULD FADE INTO THE BUSH OR ACROSS THE BORDER ONCE THE MOROCCANS AND FAZ COUNTER-ATTACKED, RECENT INFORMATION MADE THEM WONDER WHETHER KATANGANS MIGHT IN FACT STAND AND FIGHT. THEY CITED AS EVIDENCE REPORTS THAT SUPPLIES WERE BEING SHIPPED ALONG THE RAILROAD FROM DILOLO TO MUTSHATSHA. ALSO, BELGIAN HAD JUST RECEIVED REPORT OF MAJOR KATANGAN AMBUSH OF FAZ FORCES APRIL 14 NORTH OF KANZENZE, WITH
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SOME FORTY FAZ CASUALTIES. GENERAL SINGA HAD REQUESTED IMMEDIATE HELP FROM MOROCCANS, WHO AT FIRST SAID THEY WERE NOT YET FULLY EQUIPPED FOR SUCH OPERATION. HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF URGENCY OF SITUATION, 300 MOROCCANS WERE TO BE DISPATCHED TO KAZENZE AREA APRIL 15. BELGIAN WAS CONCERNED BECAUSE THIS REFLECTED (A) KATANGANS' INCLINATION TO TAKE OFFENSIVE ACTION EVEN AFTER MOROCCANS' ARRIVAL AND (B) CONTINUED INEFFECTIVENESS

OF FAZ.

3. WE ALL AGREED THAT EARLY DEFEAT FOR MOROCCANS WOULD BE SERIOUS PSYCHOLOGICAL BLOW, PARTICULARLY FOR FAZ. FRENCH AMBASSADOR SAID SUCH DEFEAT WOULD HAVE PARTICULARLY NEGATIVE IMPACT ON FRENCH PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR GOF'S INVOLVEMENT, AS WOULD ANY REPORTS OF MOROCCAN/FAZ ABUSE OF CIVILIAN POPULATION DURING THE COURSE OF COUNTER-OFFENSIVE. ANOTHER REFLECTION OF BELGIAN AND FRENCH UNCERTAINTY RE MILITARY SITUATION IS FACT THAT THEY WILL BE RETAINING AIRCRAFT AT KIGALI AND LIBREVILLE, RESPECTIVELY, AS CONTINGENCY FOR EVACUATING CIVILIANS FROM KOLWEZI.

4. MY BELGIAN AND FRENCH COLLEAGUES STRONGLY AGREED THAT NEGOTIATIONS WOULD HAVE TO TAKE PLACE AT SOME POINT AND NIGERIAN CHANNEL MUST, THEREFORE, BE KEPT ALIVE. FRENCH AMBASSADOR SAID HE HAD DAY BEFORE MADE THIS POINT FORCEFULLY TO NGUZA, ALONG WITH STRESS ON NEED TO AVOID ANY ACTIONS ALONG BORDER THAT WOULD PROVOKE INTERVENTION BY ANGOLANS AND CUBANS, THEREBY RISKING ESCALATION AND REDUCING CHANCES FOR EARLY PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT. WE ALL AGREED THAT, IN VIEW OF RISK THAT FAZ MIGHT BE TEMPTED TO KEEP ON GOING ACROSS ANGOLAN BORDER IN HOT PURSUIT, IT WAS IMPORTANT TO PUSH FOR MEDIATION NEGOTIATIONS DURING THE COURSE OF ANTICIPATED COUNTER-OFFENSIVE RATHER THAN WAITING UNTIL IT IS COMPLETED. WHILE WE AGREED THAT SOME FAZ MILITARY SUCCESS WAS PROBABLY NECESSARY TO SET STAGE FOR

SUCCESSFUL TALKS, WE ALSO AGREED IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO CONVINCE MOBUTU TO TAKE ANY SIGNIFICANT NEGOTIATING INITIATIVES
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UNTIL EVERY EFFORT HAD BEEN MADE TO THOROUGHLY ROUT THE KATANGANS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition History: n/a
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